

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held at Chief State's Attorney's Office, Rocky Hill
May 10, 2007

ATTENDEES: Cheryl Assis, CRCOG; Bill Austin, CRCOG; Timothy Baldwin, Southbury; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Peter Boynton, USCG; Sandra Brown, Hartford Hosp.; Matthew Bruns, CREPC; Michelle Castillo, CT Legislature; John Danaher, DPS; Scott Devico, DEMHS; Douglas Dortenzio, Wallingford; MaryRose Duberek, DEMHS; Mary Duley, DPH; Chris Egan, CTNG; Tom Flaherty, POSTC; Libby Graham, DEMHS; Len Guercia, DPH; Bill Hackett, DEMHS; Albert Hoffman, USCG; Lenworth Jacobs, Hartford Hosp.; Don Janelle, Manchester; Robert Kenny, DPH; Melanie Kerr, DEMHS; Samantha Kopp, YNHHS; Bob Labanara, CCM; Phil Marino, New Britain; Virginia Mason, COGCNV; John Mengacci, OPM; Jim Mona, DOT; Jim O'Leary, COST; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Nicholas Peake, DHS/FEMA; Doug Pesce, DHS; Roy Piper, DEMHS; George Pohorilak, OSET; Susan Rainville, POSTC; John Ricci, USAR; Mark Samsel, Bloomfield; Wayne Sandford, DEMHS; Vito Savino, USAR; Anthony Schirillo, DPS; John Shaw, MMRS; Scott Simoneau, CT Legislature; Michael Spera, Old Saybrook; Sandra Spinks, DHS/FEMA; Dan Stebbins, USAO; Carl Stephani, CRCOG; James Thomas, DEMHS; and Lee Toffey, DEMHS.

I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0907 hours, and Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of Nicholas Peake, Sandra Spinks and Angela Heim of the Department of Homeland Security.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. None

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Motion made to accept the minutes of the March meeting by Doug Dortenzio; second by Jim O'Leary; approved unanimously.

IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

- A. None

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Interoperability Committee –

- The Public Safety Interoperability Communications Grant Program:
A presentation was given to detail the project to the Comm. of DEMHS, DOIT and DPS. A project team has been identified and initial action steps are being developed. The intent is to hire several consultants to assist with the project to meet the September timeframe. Solicitations for consultants have been announced and it is expected to select contractors by end of May. A more detailed report will be made regarding this project in the future.

- STOCS Low power cross-band / multi-band devices operational testing is completed, contract awarded and ordered placed for the units. Expected delivery of the units is eight weeks, they will then be available for training and deployment. It is anticipated to deploy approximately 100 units.
 - The I-CALL / I-TAC updated training programs have been delivered around the State, 11 programs have been delivered through the CT Fire Academy training calendar an additional delivery is scheduled during the June School programs at the CT Fire Academy the first week of June. Battery replacement for the issued portables has been coordinated with the Department of Public Safety and was made available at these training sessions. Anyone needing to replace existing batteries should contact DPS Communications in Middletown.
 - Next Regular meeting is scheduled for May 15th 1PM at DOT Research lab in Rocky Hill.
- B. Citizen Corps Advisory Council – Bill Austin reported that the bylaws have been adopted and that are currently 866 persons waiting to be trained. The goal is to have 3000 people CERT trained and they are well on their way. Reminder of the sheltering exercise is to be held on Memorial Day weekend.
- C. Credentialing Committee – Mike Spera advised that the next meeting is scheduled for May 31st, where the committee will see a comprehensive review of the Salamander Credentialing System.
- D. Training/NIMS Committee – Deputy Commissioner Sandford reported there has been no meeting since last month so nothing new to report.
- E. Incident Management Teams – Tim Baldwin reported that the group has met with the Regional Coordinators, that the booth at the CCM/DEMHS Symposium was well received and that the next meeting will be May 17th at Brainard. Presentation to be given at the end of the meeting.
- F. Child Safety & Crisis Response: Deputy Commissioner Sandford reported that there will be a meeting later this afternoon. Three items – 1) Bill #1110 in it's current draft form, gives an educational grant to DEMHS which will require DEMHS to assist some communities with planning, training and the update of select buildings. The grant is 10 million dollars in total. 2) Committee is working on a Statewide School Seminar, possibly the third week in September, for educational professionals and focusing on school safety. 3) The Commission on Children in conjunction with DEMHS will be showing the art work and writing submitted by children from around the state, at the LOB on May 15th. This year's topic was *Coping in an Uncertain World: Student's Thoughts on Safety, Conflicts, and Homeland Security*.
- G. Mutual Aid Legislative Subcommittee – Commissioner Thomas reported that the Mutual Aid Bill #7024 has passed both the houses and is going to the Governor for signature.
- H. Regional Collaboration Committee – Libby Graham advised that the committee met in March and that the month of April internal staff meetings and meetings with the RPO's took place. The committee met again on May 7th and reviewed the draft Regional Funding Formula. Some small changes were advised and the Funding Formula will be presented to the Coordinating Council at the June meeting. Libby gave a quick synopsis of the formula and advised that the 2007 grant application is in Washington for review, and until we know what the actual allocation is, the numbers in the formula are tentative.

Motion to accept committee reports was made by Lenworth Jacobs, second by Mike Spera, unanimously approved.

VI. UPDATES

A. Grant Program – Libby Graham gave the following report:

FY04 – Final spend down being completed. Grant is 98% spent/obligated.

FY05 – Corresponded with municipalities regarding the deadline (4-30-07). Any remaining dollars will be re-programmed. Grant is 87% spent/obligated.

FY06 – Only nominal activity at this time.

FY07 – Waiting for allocation amount.

Competitive Training Grant – DEMHS in concert with DMHAS have applied for this grant. 2 million dollars was requested to provide for First Responder training on psychological effects of major events, vulnerable groups, etc. Advisory committee will be established if any money is allocated.

Port Security Grant – Capt. Boynton advised that they still expect an answer on or around June 1st.

B. CTIC – Commissioner Thomas advised that the CTIC Advisory Board will meet tomorrow. CTIC went to UConn’s Spring Weekend with the virtual command center and it performed well. Commissioner Danaher advised that the it was a very successful weekend.

C. Urban Search & Rescue – Reported on by Sgt. Vito Savino.

May Component and Admin Drill:

- Component Equipment Review
- Shoring-Rescue Component and Medical Component
- WMD Haz Mat Operations Refresher
- Training session on new US&R radios

Pub Ed Events:

- May 5th, Operating Engineers Local 478 Disaster Work Site Class-South Meriden -Completed
- May 8th, CERT Team- Hamden-Completed
- May 17th, Operating Engineers Local 478 Open House- South Meriden
- May 19th, COG/CERT Team- New London
- May 29th, DEMHS Regional Coordinators- Brainard
- We are in the process of scheduling a meeting with the CT Structural Specialist Coalition. We are still in need of Structural Engineers

Budget:

- A budget for the Urban Search and Rescue Team was submitted for fiscal year 07-08 and 08-09.

Training:

- A majority of our members have completed the ICS 300 Class in April. This class was provided by the CT Fire Academy.
- Once a budget is approved for 07-08, the Training Committee will work on scheduling future classes. We are looking into the possibility of hosting a FEMA Equivalent Search Canine Course at the CT Fire Academy. If this is approved, this class will be open to other State Urban Search and Rescue Teams to attend.

Misc.:

- On April 23rd and 24th, TFL Mancini and Planning Tech John Cunningham attended the NJ-TF1 Annual Deployment Exercise held at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in Lake Hurst, New Jersey. Both members were asked to evaluate the 36 hour exercise. TFL Mancini was confident that if CT-TF1 was deployed to a similar scenario, that the team would be able to perform to the same expectations as New Jersey's Task Force.

D. Other –

1) Deputy Commissioner Sandford advised that DEMHS is working with DPH on the Medical Reserve Corps Program. US Department of Health and Human Services gave \$10,000 to each of the nine MRC's. A structure is being worked on to organize the MRC's into the five DEMHS regions and form a council. Mary Duley has been named as the State Coordinator. There will be a meeting at the state capitol with HHS, DPH, DEMHS and the MRC's. Mary Duley advised that the first conference call will be held tomorrow and a meeting schedule will be addressed.

2) Dr. Lenworth Jacobs discussed the special problem for hospitals when a large disaster strikes. They deal with this by having two drills a year, usually hospital specific. Now that the hospitals have undergone NIMS training and the command centers are more in line with what first responders do, the hospitals are reaching out to others to work and drill together. Saturday June 9th there will be a regional drill, with pediatric emphasis, to include eight hospitals and various other entities.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. NIMS Alert from FEMA. Document in handouts that will clarify the NIMS 300 and 400 requirements.
- B. CCM/DEMHS Symposium on May 1st was very successful with over 450 attendees and 50 vendor booths.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation on Incident Management Teams, by Nick D'elia.
Motion for the Coordinating Council to endorse the training and positions for each on the Incident Management Team by Bill Austin. Second by Mike Spera, approved unanimously.
- B. Area Maritime Security Committee Exercise – Al Hoffman reported that this exercise is done each year. This year it will be an advanced tabletop fully functional exercise based on recovery and restoring the Transportation System. 2008 will be a full scale exercise and planning and preparations have already begun.
- C. Flooding Update – Commissioner Thomas reported that the FEMA Disaster Team has completed its assessment and 11.9 million dollars in damage has been assessed. There is an additional 33 million in private property damage. The request is under review and we are awaiting a decision on a Presidential Declaration which will provide for Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA) and SBA loans in the counties affected and their surrounding counties.
- D. Presentation to Captain Peter Boynton of a Proclamation from Governor Rell for service.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Public Health Emergency Law Course, May 18, 2007 at The Bushnell, Hartford.
- B. Reminder of CERT Exercise on June 2, 2007

- C. Reminder of Emergency Management Director's Hurricane Workshop in West Haven on June 6th.
- D. CERT Annual Meeting will be held on October 29, 2007 at the Mohegan Sun.
- E. Team Yankee Exercise on May 18, 2007. DMAT Team and part of the mobile hospital to deploy to West Cove Air Force Base.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Tim Baldwin; second by Mike Spera; Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 1028 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

XI. NEXT MEETING – June 14, 2007 at 9am, at the Chief State's Attorney's Office, Rocky Hill.